OUR TRIUMPH IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

The Common Cause

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

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[The National Union does not hold itself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.]

Notes and News.

The Triumph of Women's Suffrage in the House of Lords.

The passage of the Women's Suffrage measure embodied in the Representation of the People Bill is now assured. The House of Lords have endorsed the decision of the Commons, and as far as human eyes can see, nothing now remains for Suffragists to fear. Our Cause is won. At this glorious moment we are glad to be able to print a leading article from our President, Mrs. Henry Fawcett. All our hearts go out to her at this time. It is she who has led us in this struggle through fifty years. THE COMMON CAUSE joins in the thanks and congratulations that are pouring in to her from Suffragists all over the world.

America and women's Suffrage.

When the Executive Committee of the N.U.W.S.S. were anxiously awaiting the result of the division on Women's Suffrage in the House of Lords last week, news was brought in that President Wilson had declared himself strongly in favour of the Federal Amendment to the Constitution of the United States which will give the vote to American women. The news was good itself, and a good omen: a large number of people here and in America and in other parts of the world now believe that any cause for which President Wilson declares himself is bound to triumph. The American Women's Suffrage Amendment has now been passed by the House of Representatives, and in this hour of common rejoicing we send our heartfelt congratulations to our fellow-Suffragists across the seas. Some notes on Women's Suffrage in America will be found on page 514.

The Lost Leader.

Lord Curzon's attitude in the Women's Suffrage debate in the Lords last week seems to have been a shock to some members of the National League for Opposing Women's Suffrage, of which (at the time of going to press) he is still President. On January 14th, Mrs. Humphry Ward had a letter in *The Morning Post* complaining that Lord Curzon had damped down the Anti-Suffrage agitation in the autumn, "on the understanding that when the final stage was reached, he himself would take charge of the matter, and would both speak and vote against the Bill." The Anti-Suffragists accordingly refrained from propaganda, and left the matter to him. Then when the time came, he delivered a great philippic against Women's Suffrage, but ended with a complete *volte-face*. "In a subdued tone, which showed that he was conscious of the extraordinary nature of his proceeding . . . he announced that he would abstain from voting," and went on to warn the Lords of the extreme gravity of a conflict with the Commons at this time. Mrs. Ward accuses the noble Earl of detaching at least thirty votes from the Anti-Suffrage Clause by those words, and goes on to state that "*the President of the Anti-Suffrage League*, as far as in him lay, *made a present of the Suffrage to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.*" She adds that Browning's "Lost Leader" will have to be re-written up to date.

To this bitter reproach Lord Curzon replies in a long letter also in *The Morning Post* (January 15th). He says, in effect, that he had been reluctant to countenance large expenditure on an Anti-Suffrage agitation that could produce nothing. He points out that even if his speech did detach thirty votes from the Anti-Suffragists, that would not have altered the result of the Division, since the majority for Women's Suffrage was over sixty in a house of about two hundred. He says that his attitude during the last few months has been perfectly plain; that while still objecting to Women's Suffrage, he could not be responsible for inviting the House of Lords to enter into a conflict with the House of Commons on a matter which all parties in the latter had decided by a majority of 385 to 55. "Nothing would have been easier than to win the approval of any Anti-Suffrage friends by leading them into a position which it was believed would be decided by a few votes one way or the other. But I suspect that they would not have been the last to reproach me when in a few weeks' time, had the Clause been rejected by the Lords and re-inserted by the Commons, I had been compelled to advise either a humiliating abandonment of the position which I had been responsible for taking up, or a conflict with the House of Commons in which I fear that the chances of victory for the House of Lords would have been small. I ask for no sympathy in this moral dilemma; but at least I am entitled to protest against gross misunderstanding."

Lord Curzon's position is, we think, quite plain. Suffragists have always found him a strong and uncompromising antagonist, and have never imagined that he had weakened in his dislike of Women's Suffrage. But he has too great a political experience not to realise that our cause is now won, and he does not believe in the Anti-Suffrage cause so strongly that he is willing to run grave risks himself, or expose the Government or the country to grave risks for the sake of continuing to support it. He sees that an Anti-Suffrage victory in the Lords would have meant a conflict between the Houses which might have been disastrous for the whole nation; he sees that the vast majority of the nation desire Women's Suffrage; and he conceives that he has no other course but to submit. We think he is wise!

A Biography of Dr. Elsie Inglis.

We are glad to learn that Lady Frances Balfour has undertaken to write a life of Doctor Elsie Inglis. Nothing could be more suitable and delightful than that she should do it. Lady Frances Balfour and Doctor Inglis were closely united in their devotion to the Empire and to the cause of Women's Enfranchisement, and they were also united in a very special love and loyalty to Scotland; and in service of Serbia, a nation unlike Scotland in her present fortunes, but like her in the indomitable patriotism, which in the end cannot fail of success. The biographer will therefore have a real understanding of her subject, and the N.U.W.S.S. will have a double reason for being proud of the biography.

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is doing a wonderful work at **COVENTRY**. It now has **OVER 1,100 MEMBERS** and is the largest and best equipped **Y.W.C.A.** hut ever erected.

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Women's Suffrage in the House of Lords.

Since the publication of our last issue, the House of Lords has affirmed the principle of Women's Suffrage by the decisive majority of 134 to seventy-one. The division, which took place on Lord Loreburn's amendment to omit those sub-sections of Clause IV. which confer the Parliamentary franchise upon women was taken at the end of a two days' debate—January 9th and 10th—the first day of which was briefly reported in our issue of last week. On the first day, it will be remembered, Women's Suffrage was subject to a formidable and unexpected attack on the part of Lord Lansdowne—formidable not because the speaker's arguments were convincing, but because his personal influence is great. The second day, however, provided compensation for this blow in the shape of an exceedingly effective and profound statement of the case for Clause IV. by the Earl of Selborne, who opened his speech by arguing that the amendment amounted, in fact, to a motion for the rejection of the whole Bill. "It is a pure delusion," he declared, "to suppose that there is any chance whatever of the House of Commons passing this Bill if votes for women are cut out." It was this argument, as a subsequent turn of the debate showed, which broke the opposition to Women's Suffrage. Other champions of ours on this second day were the Archbishop of Canterbury, Earl Russell, Lord Willoughby de Broke, and the Earl of Lytton, who opened his speech with a sympathetic reference to the feelings of "those women who, now for a great many years have been waiting and working—patiently at first, but with ever-increasing impatience in recent years, and, I am afraid, also even with increasing bitterness—for their admission to the rights of the franchise." His words served to remind his Suffragist hearers, if they needed any reminder, that the bitterness would perhaps have been more intense but for the untiring and fearless co-operation of such friends as Lord Lytton.

The leading note of the Anti-Suffrage opposition throughout the second day's debate was terror of red revolution. "There has been nothing like it in the history of the world. . . . Would there not be a vast amount of material for agitation by those who are called pacifists?" asked the Lord Chancellor; while Earl Curzon of Kedleston prophesied darkly that enfranchised womanhood would be "a Socialist influence, and very likely a disturbing influence in the life of this country." But it was undoubtedly Viscount Chaplin who sounded the deepest note of fear. Of the six million new women voters, five million, he asserted, were "connected directly or indirectly with Labour." And such an addition to the power of Labour is to be made at a time "when we hear of industrial unrest, of strikes occurring day after day." Indeed, for a true picture of the precarious state of the country the noble Viscount could only refer their Lordships to "the remarkable articles which appeared in *The Times* some weeks ago called "The Ferment of Revolution."

But to the anxious Suffragist spectator of this final pitched battle all arguments for and against Women's Suffrage sounded strangely remote—it was obviously not on the merits of Women's Suffrage that the issue hung. It was impossible to shake off the impression that had this been the case, in spite of the unassailable justice of its principle, in spite of the redoubtable efforts of its champions, Women's Suffrage would never have survived a division in the House of Lords. So, indeed, it seemed to at least one Suffragist spectator, when Lord Curzon, Leader of the House and Lord President of the Council, rose towards the end of the evening, and embarked upon the most momentous utterance of the two days' discussion. From the beginning he spoke to a crowded and attentive House, and from the beginning his magnificent voice and irreproachable sentences, combined with his background of frock-coated listeners and gilded walls, lent a curious air of profundity to arguments which any Suffragist could have demolished without intellectual strain in the intervals of an early morning doze. Speaking personally, neither as Leader of the House nor representative of the Government, he remained, he asserted, unconvinced of the desirability of adding six million women voters to the electorate. This declaration he followed up with a comprehensive statement of the Anti-Suffrage case, the central plank of which appeared to be the logical impossibility of stopping short with a franchise so limited, and the consequent horror of a preponderantly female electorate. The scene was picturesque enough, the actual oratory very perfect as an expression of the picture; but the matter of it was dull—so dull that a Suffragist listener might well have been caught napping when the first note of a dramatic development was sounded by the speaker. "Am I justified in voting for the amendment?" he asked, and no immediate affirmative followed—instead, allusion to the recent House of Commons majority for Women's Suffrage, and to the large proportion of Unionist members who composed it.

Then followed scathing reference to the uncertain record of the present House of Commons with regard to Women's Suffrage, only to be capped by the admission that the existing House of Commons, "old as it is, obsolete as it is, is at the present moment the sole constitutional representative of the feelings of this country." It was at this point that the noble Earl's speech became enthrallingly, passionately interesting. "You can throw this clause out of the Bill," he proceeded; "you have a perfect right to do so. But if you think that by killing the clause you can also save the Bill, I believe you to be mistaken." The concluding remarks of the speaker embodied a prophecy more terrible than the prophecy of Socialism and the monstrous regiment of women—the prophecy of "a struggle from which the House of Commons is not likely to desist," and in which the speaker "could not himself feel any confidence that their Lordships would prevail." It appeared, then, that of two great terrors, Women's Suffrage and a blow to the Upper House, the noble Earl dreaded the second most bitterly; and so for the first time in its history, the political influence of Earl Curzon of Kedleston was an asset to Women's Suffrage.

Certainly this most dramatic conclusion of an Anti-Suffrage speech provided, for Suffragists, the climax of the two days' debate. Behind it loomed the shadow of a Government ultimatum to Anti-Suffrage peers. The division which followed seemed no more than the echo of a voice which had sounded on the night of June 20th—in another place.

The figures, when they were announced, were 134 for the retention of the Women's Suffrage Clause, and seventy-one against—a majority of nearly two to one for Women's Suffrage.

Analysis of voting in the House of Lords on the amendment for the rejection of the Women's Suffrage Clause, January 10th, 1918:—

For Women's Suffrage.

Canterbury, L. Abp.
York, L. Abp.
Marlborough, D.
Sutherland, D.
Bath, M.
Camden, M.
Crewe, M.
Lincolnshire, M.
Salisbury, M.
Albemarle, E.
Ancaster, E.
Brownlow, E.
Chesterfield, E.
Clarendon, E.
Darnley, E.
Dartmouth, E.
Denbigh, E.
Derby, E.
Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch of Queensberry.*)
Dundonald, E.
Grey, E. [*Teller.*]
Hardwicke, E.
Harrowby, E.
Howe, E.
Kimberley, E.
Lichfield, E.
Lucan, E.
Lytton, E.
Malmesbury, E.
Mar and Kellie, E.
Mayo, E.
Morley, E.
Mount Edgcumbe, E.
Onslow, E.
Russell, E.
Sandwich, E.
Scarbrough, E.
Selborne, E.
Stradbroke, E.
Verulam, E.
Sandhurst, V. (*L. Chamberlain.*)
Churchill, V.
Cowdray, V.
Devonport, V.
Falmouth, V.
Gladstone, V.
Haldane, V.
Harcourt, V.
Hill, V.
Hood, V.
Knutsford, V.
Milner, V.
Morley of Blackburn, V.
Reading, V.
Templetown, V.
Bangor, L. Bp.
Chichester, L. Bp.
Ely, L. Bp.
Gloucester, L. Bp.
Llandaff, L. Bp.
London, L. Bp.
Oxford, L. B.
St. Asaph, L. Bp.
St. David's, L. Bp.
Wakefield, L. Bp.
Winchester, L. Bp.
Worcester, L. Bp.
Aberconway, L. [*Teller.*]
Airedale, L.
Anslow, L.
Barnard, L.
Basing, L.
Blyth, L.
Boston, L.
Brodrick, L. (*V. Midleton.*)
Buckmaster, L.
Burnham, L.
Clements, L. (*E. Leitrim.*)
Colchester, L.
Colebrooke, L.
Coleridge, L.
Courtney of Penwith, L.
Crawshaw, L.
De Ramsey, L.
Denman, L.
Desborough, L.
Digby, L.
Elphinstone, L.
Emmott, L.
Erskine, L.
Faber, L.
Farrer, L.
Forbes, L.
Harris, L.
Hylton, L.
Islington, L.
Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)
Lamington, L.
Leith of Fyvie, L.
Marchamley, L.
Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)
Minster, L. (*M. Conyngham.*)
Monckton, L. (*V. Galway.*)
Monteagle, L. (*M. Sligo.*)
Monteagle of Brandon, L.
Mostyn, L.
Muir Mackenzie, L.
Newton, L.
Northcliffe, L.
Parker of Waddington, L.
Parmoor, L.
Penrhyn, L.
Ponsonby, L. (*E. Bessborough.*)
Pontypridd, L.
Ranfurly, L. (*E. Ranfurley.*)
Ranksborough, L.
Rathcreedan, L.
Rayleigh, L.
Rhonddha, L.
Ritchie of Dundee, L.
Rothermere, L.
Rowallon, L.
St. David's, L.
Sandys, L.
Shaw, L.
Somerleyton, L.
Southwark, L.
Strabolgi, L.
Stuart of Wortley, L.
Tenterden, L.
Thurlow, L.
Whitburgh, L.
Willoughby de Broke, L.
Wolverton, L.

Against Women's Suffrage.

Finlay, L. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Argyll, D.
Newcastle, D.
Northumberland, D.
Lansdowne, M.
Zetland, M.
Amherst, E.
Bathurst, E.
Allendale, V.
Bryce, V.
Chaplin, V.
Chilston, V.
Falkland, V.
Halifax, V.
Iveagh, V.
Knollys, V.
Glenconner, L.
Inverclyde, L.
Joicey, L. [*Teller.*]
Kenmare, L. (*E. Kenmare.*)
Leconfield, L.
Mowbray, L.
Northbourne, L.

Camperdown, E.	Mersey, V.	Oxenfoord, L. (*E. Stair.*)
Cottenham, E.	Annesley, L.	Plunket, L.
Devon, E.	Ashton of Hyde, L.	Redesdale, L.
Ferrers, E.	Balfour, L.	Robson, L.
Halsbury, E.	Barrymore, L.	Roundway, L.
Harewood, E.	Bateman, L.	Saltersford, L.
Jersey, E.	Biddulph, L.	(*E. Courtown.*)
Leicester, E.	Brancepeth, L.	Saltoun, L.
Lindsay, E.	(*V. Boyne.*)	Savile, L.
Lonsdale, E.	Carnock, L.	Stafford, L.
Loreburn, E. [*Teller.*]	Charnwood, L.	Stuart of Castle Stuart, L.
Morton, E.	Cheylesmore, L.	Sudeley, L.
Northbrook, E.	Clifford of Chudleigh, L.	Swaythling, L.
Northesk, E.	De Mauley, L.	Sydenham, L.
Plymouth, E.	Dinevor, L.	Treowen, L.
Shrewsbury, E.	Faringdon, L.	Weardale, L.
Wicklow, E.	Gisborough, L.	

PAIRS.

FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.	AGAINST WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE.
Channing, Lord.	Eversley, Lord.
Granard, Earl of.	Desart, Earl of.
MacDonnell, Lord.	Cranmore and Browne, Lord.

THE DEBATE ON JANUARY 14TH AND 15TH.

The debate on Monday was prefaced by the presentation of a Memorial in support of the referendum from women. This was, of course, designed as an answer to the Suffrage Memorial presented a few weeks ago. The Anti-Suffragists had not, however, followed the example of the Suffragists, in carefully selecting women of real weight doing specially responsible and important work; they had evidently invited any woman they could get to sign. The signatures to their petition therefore included not only canteen waitresses, workers for soldiers' comforts and war hospital supply depôts, and "domestic workers," but also many ladies qualified vaguely as "war workers"; a description which might be applied, with more or less accuracy, to almost every adult human being at this time. The petition had however been signed by eighty-seven peeresses, and a few other ladies who were well known as Anti-Suffragists.

Proceedings in the House began with a discussion of the University Vote. Lord Peel, on behalf of the Government, moved an amendment designed to secure that women at Oxford and Cambridge who have passed the examinations which would qualify them for degrees if they were men, but are refused them because they are women, should nevertheless have the vote. There was an animated discussion but the amendment was finally agreed to without a division.

Lord Ancaster then moved that a provision should be inserted in the Clause, preventing husband and wife from both being registered for the same premises as local Government electors. The effect of this, had it been passed, would have been to take away the local Government Vote from the five million married women whom the Commons had agreed to enfranchise. The suffrage and anti-suffrage women who were listening to the debate found themselves in agreement at this point, as both were anxious that as many married women as possible should have Local Government Votes. Fortunately the Government and the great majority of the House of Lords also agreed about this, and after a strong statement from Lord Peel, the amendment was negatived without a division.

Then the struggle for the Anti-Suffragists' very last ditch began. Lord Balfour of Burleigh moved that before Clause IV. of the Representation of the People Bill could become law, it should be submitted first to a referendum of women registered as Local Government electors, and then to a referendum of men. Lord Peel, while declaring that the matter was open to the Committee, and he did not propose to make any Government statement, gently pointed out that this proposal, if accepted, would mean something very like three general elections running, with all their machinery and expense. Lord Crewe supported him, and the forecast of the inevitable waste plainly staggered the House. Lord Bryce said that he preferred a referendum to women only, and Lord Halifax gave notice of an amendment which would have that effect. Lord Stuart of Wortley made a powerful speech against the application of the referendum to Women's Suffrage, a matter about which the opinion of the country was already known. Lord Lansdowne supported first Lord Balfour's amendment and then that of Lord Halifax, and kindly promised that if the referendum *were* accepted and put into force, the Anti-Suffragists would loyally abide by the result. (It seems a little difficult to imagine how they can anyway do anything else, as no one but themselves will mind whether they use their votes, or passively resist the register.) There was nothing new in Lord Lansdowne's speech. Both the Suffragists and the Anti-Suffragists who were listening to the debate were much disappointed when Lord Salisbury moved the adjournment and the suspense was protracted until the following day.

On Tuesday the debate was reopened by Lord Salisbury, who made a speech on familiar lines, warning their lordships of the coming predominance of women, and of the lamentable effect of drawing them away from their homes. Some confusion appeared to prevail as to which amendment was being discussed, that proposed by Lord Balfour of Burleigh advocating a referendum to women and to men, or that proposed by Lord Halifax advocating a referendum to women only. In speaking on the latter, Lord Halifax described the Parliamentary franchise as a privilege, and drew dark pictures of the increased facilities for divorce which had followed Women's Suffrage in some of the United States, and might follow it in England.

Lord Burnham, returning to the Suffrage charge with no diminution of vigour, described Lord Balfour's amendment as an elaborate mystification by which the Anti-Suffragists were trying to reverse the smashing verdict arrived at on the previous Thursday. In reply to the Anti-Suffragists' assertion that there was no mandate for Women's Suffrage, he said that the doctrine of the mandate was foreign to the British Constitution, but that if there was ever a case in which a mandate was given by the electorate, this was it. There had never been an election since 1868 in which Women's Suffrage had not been discussed: he himself had fought twelve contested elections, and in every one of them he was pledged for or against Women's Suffrage. Lord Burnham went on to describe in forcible terms the dangers of the referendum, and to point out once again the reasons that made it urgently necessary for the mothers of the nation to take part in reconstruction. He thought the women's vote would have a steadying influence, and it was certainly the desire of the country that they should exercise it as soon as possible; he did not believe that anybody could deny that the general good sense of the people was in favour of the national settlement embodied in this Bill.

After Lord Chaplin had at some length "adhered to the position" he had taken up at the beginning, Lord Balfour withdrew his amendment in favour of that moved by Lord Halifax.

Lord Beresford, who said that the one reason for political action was expediency, drew a lively picture of a future in which women would debate in the House of Commons, and men would sit in the Ladies' Gallery with the grille restored.

Lord Courtney showed that the proposal to ask women on the Local Government register whether they and other women should have Parliamentary votes, was not, in fact, a referendum at all, but something entirely novel and ridiculous. He pointed out that one result of the late referendum in Australia, as confirmed by Australians in the trenches, was to show that there was no sex division in voting.

Lord Denman, speaking from his experience as Governor-General of Australia, made some useful and reassuring remarks about the working of Women's Suffrage there.

The crux of the debate was reached when Lord Crawford summed up for the Government. Lord Crawford, who has been well known as an Anti-Suffragist, described in vivid and convincing language the effect that must follow if the proposal to take a referendum from women were accepted. All the five million women whom it was proposed to enfranchise would then form one vast constituency, which it would be the duty of the Suffragists and the Anti-Suffragists to organise. The picture the noble Earl drew of the inevitable waste of energy, time, and money which would ensue, was one to make the hearts of Suffragists and Anti-Suffragists quail. He appealed to the House of Lords not to make this necessary, at a time when waste of energy was a national wrong. After he had spoken the result of the division was hardly in doubt, and the Suffragists who were eagerly waiting to hear it, were not surprised to hear that only sixty-five noble lords had voted for the amendment, and ninety against.

The majority against the referendum and in favour of the suffrage clause was therefore twenty-five. Not so good a majority as that on last Thursday's debate, but amply accounted for by the fact that many of the supporters of suffrage, who had voted then, and notably most of the bishops had been called away by the other pressing duties of the time.

[*An analysis of the voting on the Referendum Amendment will be published next week.*]

Sidelights on Irish Suffrage.

VI.—THE CHILDREN WHO HAVE NOT DIED.

It was the late afternoon of Christmas Day. The last notes of the organ had died away, and the congregation were passing out of the dimly-lit Cathedral into the moonlight outside. The open space round the Cathedral was still full of children playing in the half-light. "Ah, it's a quare change from the ould times, more than twenty years ago, when the ould ricketty houses were close up to the church. Many a time on Christmas Eve I seen the women sellin' ould feather beds and delph and ould pots and pans, and boots and clothes, all lyin' in the mud in the street!" said the old woman to whom I spoke as she stood at the street corner.

All this has been cleared away by the beneficent action of the Iveagh Trust, which also put up the model dwellings and the Play Centre on one side of St. Patrick's Park, and the Men's Lodging House further off. The greater need for a women's hostel was overlooked by the Committee of the Trust. Where are the people who lived in the ruinous houses, and carried on the Christmas fair in the narrow, dirty streets now swept away?

Our friendly old lady has much to tell of old times in this neighbourhood. "That's where they used to be sellin' the turkeys on Christmas Eve, stuffin' them with stones to make them heavier, and all the quality used to come to see the fun and the humbugging that went on round the carts. Sure, the ould King that died a while ago was here when he was Prince of Wales, with that lovely boy that died. He wint all round thim places, and the little Prince slipped and fell in the mud, and me ould grandmother picked him up and wiped the mud off of him with her apron, and the Prince of Wales laughed and said it would only do him good, and gave her a sovereign. 'That's a lucky fall,' says she, 'and it's a fine man he'll be, God bless him!' But, indeed, many's the time she told the story and said, 'That's a slip for sorrow, and it's yous that'll see that same.' Maybe the word me grandmother said to the boy was truer than what she said to us, for sure it's King he'd be now, and a sorrowful time he would have had." It is somewhat pathetic to realise how the memory of Edward the Seventh is held in respect in Ireland, among a people for whom personality is everything. The little tour among the Dublin slums has never been forgotten, and there is always a kind word for the friendly monarch who, they said, "would give us Home Rule." The old lady's method of encouraging the boy for his mishap with the comment that it was an omen of good luck while drawing a precisely opposite conclusion for her grand-daughter's benefit, is entirely characteristic of the Dublin poor, who will by no manner of means discourage anyone they like, no matter what their private opinion may be.

We went on through the darkening streets. "These are the children who have not died!" I remarked to my friend, as we were jostled by the dirty, ragged children, darting in and out of the dark entries. "Better for them if they had!" she said bitterly, as we looked down an alley of cottage houses, six in number, with a derelict building on one side. "That's ——— Lane, miss. Do you remember the old man that died there last summer, 'at an advanced age,' as they said on the paper? He had the big cottage at the top of the lane; it's the only one that has any water laid on. Two shillings a week, they pay for them cottages."

It is in such places that the people formerly occupying the ruinous houses around the Cathedral took refuge. One child in every six born in such areas dies within the first year; but what of those who do not die? Our guide has information on the point. "There's Mrs. Ryan, that lives in the corner cottage beyant the public-house. Her husband does odd jobs, and she goes out charin'. Yes, it's in Rathmines, and she does be an hour gettin' there. School! Sure, they go when they can, for they get the clothes from the police-aided ladies, and Mrs. Byrne in the next house does help Mrs. Ryan to clean them and get them started; but school's over at three, and then them childher runs the streets till Mrs. Ryan's back, maybe at seven. That's how little Maggie got the cold, and she'll not do much good. She was at the sewin' in ———, but she had to stop workin' with the cough, the crature. Biddy goes sellin' papers, and she'll never settle to anything steady after that. The childher does be desthroyed, sellin' on the streets. There's Paddy Driscoll, that wint to prison the other day for stealin' a coat; he learnt them ways when he was runnin' the streets sellin' papers, he did be playin' pitch-and-toss with the lashings of money he got. And then little Katie Flaherty, it's little wondher she wint wrong, the child sent out sellin' onions to earn a penny or two when her father was drinkin' and her mother couldn't earn enough to give them a sup of tay and a bite of bread."

This question of street trading in Ireland was fully considered by the Departmental Committee appointed in 1910 to enquire into the working of the Employment of Children Act, and the Report declared this practice was "a most fruitful apprenticeship to evil courses. Street trading provides the boy with no training; he is not occupied the whole of his time. For a few years he makes more money, and makes it more easily than in an office or a workshop, and he is exposed to a variety of actively evil influences." It will be remembered that in 1911 Lord Shaftesbury introduced a Bill into the House of Lords prohibiting all street trading by boys and girls. The measure was dropped because the vested interests resisted any such reform. One is reminded of the manufacturers of Oldham in 1836, who wished to employ children of eleven for sixty-nine hours a week on the grounds that it was "absolutely necessary to the carrying on of the cotton trade." Street trading by children is "streng verboten" in Germany; the children are in school or in continuation classes. Note the comment of Mr. M'Cullough in a letter to Lord Ashley in 1833: "In Prussia and most other German States all persons are obliged to send their children to school from the age of seven to that of fourteen, and the education given them is excellent; as much superior to that given in this country as it is possible to conceive." If these words were true of England eighty years ago, they are even more true of Ireland to-day. The only apparent excuse is the vast amount of poverty which may be eased by the earnings of children engaged in street trading. There is no need to point out how fatal is this method of alleviating the evils of low wages or unemployment. Thus it is that the children of the slums grow up handicapped mentally, physically, and, only too often, morally, swelling the ranks of the unfit and unemployable, who are the despair of Relief Committees and charitable organisations.

"Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given." How beautiful had been the chant of rejoicing and triumph, and how grandly the notes had risen and swelled until they were lost in the dim arches of the Cathedral. With what a wrench one turned from the memory of that tempest of sweet song to the thought of the actual living children who have been given to us now, and whom we care for—how? DORA MALLONE.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

On Monday evening Mr. H. A. L. Fisher introduced a new Education Bill in the House of Commons, in place of the Bill recently withdrawn. He explained that, although the first measure received a remarkable measure of preliminary benediction and support, and there was a very general acceptance of the governing principle of the Bill, it had been contended by various local education authorities that some of the administrative clauses lodged an excessive degree of power in the hands of the Board of Education. The new Bill, therefore, contained amendments with a view to meeting the opinions of those local bodies, in whose willing co-operation the successful administration of our Education Acts must necessarily depend.

After explaining the scope of the new measure, and the administrative changes which it involves, Mr. Fisher added that he had inserted words in different places in the Bill to meet apprehensions of religious bodies, who feared that one of its effects might be to prejudice the position of the voluntary schools and the religious education given in them.

He had also, in response to other suggestions, introduced some alteration in the clauses dealing with attendance at continuation schools and nursery schools, and with the abolition of fees. During the last few months he had held consultations and discussions with local education authorities, and he hoped that as the result of these a large portion of the measure which might otherwise give rise to acrid debate might be taken as substantially agreed upon.

HONOURS FOR A WELL-KNOWN SUFFRAGIST.

We regret that the name of Mrs. Gilbert Samuel, Hon. Secretary of the Conservative and Unionist Women's Franchise Association, was omitted from our last week's list of well-known Suffragists upon whom Honours have been conferred. Mrs. Samuel has been made an O.B.E. for her work in connection with the War Refugees Committee.

A Triumph for Women's Suffrage in the U.S.A.

The triumph of the Women's Suffrage amendment of the Constitution, which passed the House of Representatives on January 11th by 274 votes to 136, makes it likely that in the near future the whole English-speaking world will have the franchise for both sexes. Australia and New Zealand led the way; the Western States of the U.S.A. and Canada followed; and now it looks as if Great Britain and the remaining States of America may enfranchise their women about the same time, though, owing to the complexities of the American Constitution, it may be a year or more before Women's Suffrage is actually carried into effect throughout the whole country.

There was great excitement in the House when the voting on the amendment took place, the galleries being thronged with women anxiously following the debate. At one time it looked as if the Suffragists would be defeated, but the Republican leader, Mann, and Congressman Sims came from sick beds to support the amendment, and at the last moment Representative Russell, of Missouri, arrived upon the scene, and gave his vote in favour, making the total just one vote above the required two-thirds majority.

The support of President Wilson no doubt had a great influence in securing the passing of the amendment. Indeed, it was hoped that his influence would give the amendment fifteen votes in excess.

The action of the Senate is now awaited with intense interest, and it is possible that the decision of our House of Lords may influence their decision. Suffragists are preparing for a big fight.

WHAT THE FEDERAL AMENDMENT WILL DO.

An article in *The Woman Citizen* of December 15th explains what the Federal Amendment for Women's Suffrage means, and what women it will enfranchise. On this point there has been a good deal of misunderstanding, and a great deal of misrepresentation.

"Opponents often assume that, when passed by Congress and ratified by the Legislatures of thirty-six States, it will enfranchise all the women in the country, regardless of their qualifications. As a matter of fact, it will enfranchise only those women in each State who come up to the qualifications now required of men in that State. For instance, Massachusetts has a reading and writing qualification for Suffrage. When the Federal Amendment is adopted, it will enfranchise in Massachusetts only those women who can read and write. Rhode Island still has a property qualification for certain elections. The only Rhode Island women who will be able to vote in those elections will be women who possess the property qualification. Many of the Southern States have rather elaborate qualifications for suffrage for men. The only women enfranchised in those States will be the women who come up to those qualifications.

"The Federal Amendment simply forbids the United States or any State to debar women from Suffrage on account of sex. It leaves them the same rights that they now have to maintain other qualifications, and under it the women will automatically become subject to the same qualifications that the different States now require of men. A clear comprehension of this fact would do away with much misunderstanding."

AMERICAN SUFFRAGISTS IN CONVENTION.

The convention of the National American Women Suffrage Association held last month was a triumphant gathering, for, in the whole forty-nine years of their struggle for the vote, American Suffragists have never had so much cause for rejoicing. The year 1917 has not only seen the full ballot given to women in New York—the greatest single victory that the cause has yet won in America—but it has seen Municipal Suffrage granted in Vermont, Presidential Suffrage in Rhode Island, Michigan, Nebraska, and North Dakota, and practically full Suffrage in Arkansas, without counting the many minor triumphs which have been won since January of last year.

A WAR SERVICE PROGRAMME.

After matters directly relating to the Suffrage had been discussed, an enlargement of the Association's war service programme was arranged. To the existing war-service committees two were added, and all are to be henceforth grouped into one department. The six committees are food production, conservation, Americanisation, protection of women's labour, child welfare, and the support of a mobile hospital unit for France which has already been accepted by the French Government.

This hospital unit, which was organised by Dr. Caroline Finlay, of New York, is staffed entirely by women. Its personnel, fifty in number, includes doctors, nurses, bacteriologists, ambulance drivers, electricians, and plumbers. It is to be stationed at the village of Channy, in the devastated Aisne district. The N.A.W.S.A. has made itself responsible for the Unit's equipment, transportation, and maintenance, which it is estimated will cost about 175,000 dollars a year.

A number of resolutions were passed by the Convention with a view to securing for women equal rights with men in various respects.

Our readers may remember that Miss Helen Fraser went to America to take part in the Convention. She has had a very warm welcome from American Suffragists.

THE PROSPECTS OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN FRANCE.

Speaking at a Conference of l'Union Française pour le Suffrage des Femmes, M. Pierre-Etienne Flandin prophesied that women would get the municipal vote immediately after the war. The Commission of the Chamber on Universal Suffrage had decided to adopt Women's Suffrage as far as municipal matters were concerned, and had also admitted the right of women to be elected to local councils. This was a victory, but a victory that had been won in the face of a good deal of opposition, many deputies seeming to fear the consequences of the women's vote. The right to vote in municipal elections would be an apprenticeship which would probably last a short time only. "Women," prophesied M. Flandin, "will vote at the next municipal elections, then at the parliamentary elections after next. But they will not vote till they have attained the age of thirty years.

Madame Jane Misme, who spoke later on in the meeting, took the same view, recalling that in Norway and Denmark complete political rights were granted a very short time after the municipal vote.

There was general agreement that public opinion was in favour of granting the municipal suffrage to women, but speakers differed with regard to political suffrage.

THE THIRD "COMMON CAUSE" HUT.

Money for the third COMMON CAUSE Hut is coming in rather slowly. But the need is great, and we are anxious to raise our fund as soon as possible in order to enable the Hut to be erected by the middle of February. As we announced in our last issue, the hut is to be for members of the W.A.A.C. encamped on Salisbury Plain, miles away from a railway station or shops, and with no means of recreation outside the common-room of their hutments. These girls badly need some home-like place where they can spend their leisure hours, and where there is a canteen from which they can buy light refreshments to supplement the monotonous Army diet.

We gratefully acknowledge the following sums:

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	160	12	7
Ashton-under-Lyne and Stalybridge W.S.S., per Miss Dyson, Hon. Treas.	1	1	0
Miss Lever	2	2	0
Miss A. M. Fergusson	1	0	0
A Reader of THE COMMON CAUSE, Dublin	10	0	0
Anonymous, Hendon	10	0	0
	£175	5	7

The gift of 10s. received from Hendon was enclosed with a coupon but without any signature. We should be glad to have the name of the kind donor.

Further donations should be sent to The Editor, THE COMMON CAUSE, 62, Oxford Street, W. 1.

Will you help to make known to the residents in your district what THE COMMON CAUSE has done in the past and hopes to do in the future, by holding

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Many Societies gave substantial help in this way with our first Hut for Coventry, and found it very useful propaganda work, as it enabled them to bring to the notice of fresh people what THE COMMON CAUSE stood for. The manager of THE COMMON CAUSE will be delighted to hear from any Society that will arrange a meeting. Specimen COMMON CAUSES, containing the Hut Advertisement, collection and promise cards, &c., will be provided.

Reviews.

Poems. By John Drinkwater, 1908-1914. (Published by Sidgwick & Jackson. 5s. net.)

Mr. Drinkwater has collected in a slender volume those of his non-dramatic poems, written between 1908 and 1914, which he thinks best worth preserving. There is much delicate verse in these pages, and a music of words, which sometimes appears to be disdained by Georgian poets. But their most characteristic quality is that feeling for nature, as expressed in the English countryside which the 'Georgians' have inherited from Wordsworth and Tennyson and to which they have given a new expression. If the expression is sometimes a little too obviously connected with walking tours, just as Tennyson's expression was sometimes a little too obviously connected with leisured life in the homes of the aristocracy, it does, at other moments, achieve that remoteness which is an essential characteristic of true lyrical poetry. As, for instance, in "January Dusk"—

"Austere and clad in sombre robes of grey,
With hands upfolded and with silent wings,
In unimpassioned mystery the day
Passes; a lonely thrush its requiem sings.

"The dust of night is tangled in the boughs
Of leafless lime and lilac, and the pine
Grows blacker, and the star upon the brows
Of sleep is set in Heaven for a sign.

"Earth's little weary peoples fall on peace
And dream of breaking buds and blossoming,
Of primrose airs, of days of large increase
And all the coloured retinue of spring."

Exquisite as many of Mr. Drinkwater's descriptions are, a certain disappointment lurks behind them for the reader. They give the picture but they do not create the atmosphere; they take us to the edge of a thought or an emotion but do not quite reach it, and leave us unsatisfied—not with the unsatisfied feeling that one must always have on the edge of the infinite, but with a sense that within the limits of finite thought and emotion something more might have been given us. Take the last verse of "Expectancy":—

"Or, when the reapers leave the swathèd grain,
I'll look beyond
The yellowing hazels in the twilight-tide,
Beyond the flowing plain,
And see blue mountains piled against a sky
Flung out in coloured ceremonial pride;
Then haply I
Shall be no longer troubled, but shall know,
It may be so."

It may, perhaps, seem unfair to quote from a poem the very note of which is uncertainty, but after reading the volume through we have the feeling that there is too much uncertainty in it, and it is not the right kind of uncertainty.

Still, it is ungrateful to cavil. Mr. Drinkwater, himself, says:—

"We see the clear, untroubled skies,
We see the summer of the rose
And laugh, nor grieve that clouds will rise
And wax with every wind that blows,
Nor that the blossoming time will close,
For beauty seen of humble eyes
Eternal habitation has
Though beauty's form may pale and pass."

And he has faithfully recorded the beauty for us: as in this:—

"I went beneath the sunny sky
When all things bowed to June's desire—
The pansy with its steadfast eye,
The blue shells on the lupin spire,

"The swelling fruit along the boughs,
The grass grown heady in the rain,
Dark roses fitted for the brows
Of queens great kings have sung in vain;

"My little cat with tiger bars,
Bright claws all hidden in content;
Swift birds that flashed like darkling stars
Across the cloudy continent."

Or this:—

"As twilight touched with her ghostly fingers
All the meadows and mellow hills,
And the great sun swept with his robes of glory—
Woven of petals of daffodils,
And jewelled and fringed with leaves of the roses—
Down the plains of the western way,
Among the rows of the scented clover
Dreaming John in his dreaming lay."

The last quotation is from a poem called "The Crowning of Dreaming John" which gives one a feeling of true romance. There is even more in the delicate and poignant little song about "Pierrot," and all through the volume there is loveliness and the colour of flowers. I. B. O'M.

Madam Curie and the Story of Radium. By Marion Cunningham. (St. Catherine Press. 1s. net.)

In a foreword to this little biography Lady Muir-Mackenzie points out that it is the first attempt made in England to give a complete life-story of the brilliant woman—Polish by birth, French by marriage—whose work has caused such a revolution in scientific thought and conferred great benefits upon humanity. The materials that go to its making have been collected partly from Madame Curie herself, and partly from Polish friends in London, and from some of her pupils, who have told of their experiences when studying with Madame Curie in Paris. The account of her childhood in Warsaw and student days in Paris, where she studied at the Faculté des Sciences, is of enthralling interest, especially to all who have themselves been students at a University. On account of her poverty she had many difficulties to contend with, living in an attic and doing all the work of her little ménage herself; but she never lost courage, and the tale of her struggle and brilliant success is most inspiring.

Women in Industry after the War. By B. L. Hutchins. (Social Reconstruction Pamphlets, No III. Published by The Athenæum. 6d.)

The author of "Women in Modern Industry," published shortly after the beginning of the war, has brought her enquiry into women's position in the industrial world up-to-date, and now makes some carefully thought out suggestions for securing that position and improving it in the future. She shows that there are grave dangers of unemployment ahead, but hopes that by careful organisation the transference of workers from one trade to another can be effected without the period of chaos which many experienced observers expect. Formerly the interests of women workers have been greatly neglected. But they have gained a new title to consideration, and the greater sense of their value that is now recognised may, Miss Hutchins considers, make a difference to the position they will take after the war. The problem of organising women's labour has become of the utmost importance, and it is also vital that they should have their fair share of representation and control. In addition to special provision for the representation of women in the General Executive of the Labour Party (which has now been put forward by the Executive itself), Miss Hutchins suggests that a special women's department should be constituted, governed by its own Council, but subject to the control of the General Executive. The Joint Advisory Committee recently formed by the Women's Trade Union League, the Women's Co-operative Guild, and other societies, might be the nucleus of such a committee.

Instead of the Tavern, by J. W. Harvey Theobald and A. F. Harvey (King. 1s.), is a study in the counter-attractions to the ordinary public-house that have been successful in various parts of the country, and a plea for the provision of opportunities for social intercourse without the constant inducement of custom to take alcohol "for the good of the house." The writers protest against "the cheerless doctrine of negation" preached by so many temperance reformers. "We can never hope to get rid of the public-house system as we know it," is their contention, until we are prepared to replace it by something better, and until more than the foundations of the new system have been laid. There will always be, it may be admitted, a certain number of men and women who have no need of any kind of public-house, content with their home life, and with such intercourse with the world outside as street and church and business offer them. The majority need some place where they can mix on friendly terms with their fellows, where they can exchange thoughts and share their leisure. The best type of public-house to-day owes its strength to this permanent need of human nature."

In seeking to provide an alternative for the ordinary public-house, it is needful to provide a place where people may go as a right and not by favour, and such places for rest and recreation are specially needed in crowded districts where homes are so small that people cannot stay in them with any comfort except just to eat and sleep.

The Health of a Woman. By R. Murray Leslie, M.A., B.Sc., M.D. (Methuen.)

Dr. Leslie deals in this little book with psychological considerations that affect women's health, as well as with rules of hygiene. He regards happiness as the best tonic, and insists on the need of a congenial atmosphere, whether at home or in the workroom, and plenty of recreation and varied interests. He is a great believer in fresh air and exercise, and also in work, maintaining that definite daily work of some kind or another is a necessity for the health of mind and body.

In his chapter on love, marriage, and maternity, Dr. Leslie repudiates the "extreme and exaggerated views in regard to the evils of enforced celibacy that have lately been pronounced by Freud, a Viennese psychologist, who considers that most of a woman's nervous disturbances, including hysteria, neurasthenia, and even certain cases of insanity are of sexual origin, and that the increasing nervousness found amongst women in highly civilised communities is closely connected with repressed sexual instincts, which revenge themselves in this fashion." He maintains that, though idle women, without occupation or resource, are apt to deteriorate physically and mentally, or to become eccentric, the unmarried woman whose energy has been diverted into social, intellectual, industrial, or other channels, can be quite healthy and happy.

One of Dr. Leslie's recommendations, in discussing the far-reaching effects of bad housing on women's health, is that when a Housing Commission is appointed practical women must serve on it, as women alone know the importance of household conveniences and labour-saving devices. He also insists, in his chapter on the Woman Worker, on the need for more well-equipped and well-managed women's hostels. Other questions bearing on women's health are discussed with common sense and a greater breadth of view than is often found in the writing of specialists in dealing with this subject.

How to Enlighten Our Children. By Mary Scharlieb, M.D., M.S. (Williams & Norgate. 3s. 6d.)

This is a most helpful little book for parents who realise the necessity for explaining to their children how life is transmitted but do not know how to set about it. It contains also practical advice as to the care of both girls and boys during adolescence. Mrs. Scharlieb lays stress on the importance of pointing out to boys, during a confidential talk with regard to sex, that they owe duties not only to themselves but to their future wife and children and to the State in general.

Sir Charles W. Macara, Bart. A Sketch of Modern Lancashire. By W. Haslam Mills. (Sherratt & Hughes. 6s.)

This account of one of the leading men connected with the cotton trade contains many interesting particulars of the development of the industry during the last fifty years, but throws no special light on the position of the women engaged in it. Sir Charles Macara is among the comparatively few well-to-do men who have brought up their daughters to take a practical part in the world's work. One of his daughters, after the war, was able to undertake duties in her father's business in Manchester, where it became necessary to employ a large number of women to replace men who had joined the colours. The others, who have all taken high diplomas in agricultural and horticultural subjects, are running a model farm in Herefordshire, and have done useful work in training women for work on the land.

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A Great Day.

January 10th, 1918, will always stand in Suffrage annals as a Great Day. It was our Waterloo, the day on which the forces of freedom and self-government finally overcame the forces of autocracy. For our magnificent majorities of seven to one and more than twelve to one in the House of Commons last June, have been followed on January 10th by a nearly two to one majority in the House of Lords. This means final and complete victory for the Representation of the People Bill and our share in it.

In a sense, the issue was never doubtful; for if the division in the Lords had gone another way, the Commons would assuredly have rejected the Lords' amendment in a matter in which the representative House had asserted so positive a position, and in a matter, too, which concerned it so nearly as its own electorate. So that the real issue was whether Women's Suffrage should be carried peaceably and tranquilly, or only after violent conflict between the two Houses which could only have had a most disastrous effect upon the country at such a time as this.

Therefore, the whole of the debate on January 8th and 9th and 10th, down to the very last speech delivered, was a time of intense anxiety. Lord Curzon's speech in winding up the debate was, for six pages of the official report, just an average Anti-Suffrage speech; but in the last page and a half he recognised that the House of Commons, with its many imperfections, is still the sole constitutional representative of the feelings of the country. He invited his brother-peers to contemplate what would happen if they came into collision with the House of Commons on the question of the representation of the people. You can vote, he said, as you please. You have the power and the right, if you so choose, to cut this women's clause out of the Bill; but if you think that after killing the clause you can also save the Bill, I believe you to be mistaken. Nothing is more certain than that the House of Commons will return the Bill to you with the clause re-inserted. Will you be prepared then to put it back, or will you then be prepared to give way? "Or if you do not give way, are you prepared to embark upon a conflict with a majority of 350 in the House of Commons, of whom nearly 150 belong to the Party to which most of your Lordships also belong?" He then briefly concluded by saying that to accept the Loreburn amendment would be to throw down a challenge to the House of Commons, and embark upon a conflict in which the Lords were bound to be worsted. He declined to be responsible for such a catastrophe, and announced his intention and that of Lord Peel, who had charge of the Bill, not to vote either way upon the amendment.

This was the supreme moment for all the Suffragists present. They felt at once that they were safe, and also safe without the cost of disastrous conflict. Just before the division I asked Lord Aberconway, an old friend of our movement, what he reckoned our majority would be; he said "Thirty." It was really more than twice that number. And we knew the stress and strain of our fifty years' long battle was over. It must have been someone with an historic sense who chose the tellers on the Suffrage side. They were Lord Grey and Lord Aberconway. Lord Grey, who is quite a young man, is the direct

descendant of the Earl Grey who carried the great Reform Bill of 1832; and Lord Aberconway is the son of one of the most devoted and beloved of our early pioneers, Mrs. MacLaren, whose portrait hangs in our office, and whose other son, Mr. Walter MacLaren, was for many years a member of our Executive Committee and a devoted friend of our movement. Many thoughts will go back to-day, and for many a long day, to those early workers who did not live to see our triumph. We shall all think of them with reverence and gratitude, and say, "Their works do follow them."

January 10th is memorable for more than our own triumph. On that day, away across the Atlantic, the House of Representatives in Washington voted by the necessary two-thirds majority for the Federal amendment to the Constitution of the United States conferring the Suffrage on women. A similar vote will be submitted to the Senate, and the result is awaited with intense anxiety. If the amendment is also supported by two-thirds of the Senate, there can be little doubt that the whole of the women of the United States will be enfranchised within a couple of years, and January 10th, 1918, will be as great a day for America as it has already proved itself for us.

Can we not suggest to our friends in America that it shall be henceforth Suffrage Commemoration Day or Thanksgiving Day on both sides of the Atlantic?

Reform of the Poor Law.

By the Countess of Selborne.

It is always more satisfactory to exercise one's faculties in criticising and denouncing an institution than in suggesting how it might be improved, but it is undeniably true that mere criticism is barren of result. Therefore, greatly daring, I venture to put forward a Conservative plan of Poor Law reform, hoping that the many thoughtful women who read your paper may be induced to consider this question in its practical aspect; and that they may be encouraged to suggest methods by which the ends we have in view may be served.

Now it seems to me that Queen Elizabeth's division of the problems to be dealt with still holds good. She desired first to provide for the poor, helpless, and impotent folk, and to educate the children of parents who were unable to do so. Secondly, she desired to provide work for those who could not find it for themselves. Thirdly, she tried to repress vagrancy and mendicity.

At the present day we have the Guardians still charged with these same duties, but in practice nine-tenths of their work is connected with the first. They do that by no means inefficiently. Poor Law infirmaries have improved immensely within the last twenty years. Poor Law schools, cottage homes, boarding-out arrangements for the care of the children who are thrown upon the maintenance of the ratepayers, are very often excellent. The Poor Law is the only institution that gives widows pensions, unless they are the widows of soldiers and sailors. The only means by which mothers' pensions can be given in England, except to the widows of soldiers and sailors, is through the Poor Law, and in some measure this is a thing it has done for centuries.

It was only in 1834 that the giving of relief to unmarried mothers was stopped. Though some Boards give very inadequate sums as out-relief to widows, yet that also is improving, and respectable widows receive help in most Unions.

Medical relief is given, and often prevents a family from falling into destitution. There is a great elasticity in this respect. People are sent to Bath by Poor Law authorities that they may be cured from rheumatism; blind men or women are sent to special schools, epileptic children or defectives are placed in suitable institutions.

I know all Boards of Guardians are not equally good, but the Legislature has already given some power to speed up the bad ones to the Local Government Board. And the fact that you find a very large number of Boards working very well, anxious to do the best they can, giving time and trouble freely, and dealing with local difficulties with local knowledge, makes me feel that they are a valuable democratic institution—valuable because electors can see at close quarters the consequence of their votes. If electors cannot be trusted to spend the rates of their own Unions wisely and carefully, what madness it is to trust them with the fortunes of the British Empire.

To admit that they often make mistakes is to confess that they are human. But I would maintain that that part of the Poor Law which consists in looking after the poor is not ill-done now; that it has improved notably since women were allowed to serve as Guardians, and that it may be expected to continue this improvement if the Bill now before Parliament goes through, and the married women exercise their new rights in local self-government. Therefore, I earnestly deprecate the abolition of these popularly elected representative bodies.

The chief reforms that I should like to see with regard to them are, firstly, the Local Government Board should have the power of dissolving any Board of Guardians, and calling upon the electors to elect a new one, stating at the same time the reasons for which the Board was dissolved.

Secondly, the Clerk to the Guardians should be a whole-time officer, or at least have no private work. In small Unions he might act also as Clerk to the District Council

Boards in cities might probably prefer to have a lawyer, but he should only be allowed to do their work. Rural districts need not have a lawyer. A good man or woman clerk could do their business, and they could take legal advice when they required it.

Thirdly, the Poor Law medical officers should be abolished, and their work done by the District Medical Officers. These should be appointed and paid by the County Council, thus unifying the medical service of the County. They would be whole-time officers. They would be bound to attend any case sent them by the Guardians. The Union would pay the County for their services. The chief District Medical Officer would attend the meetings of the Board and report to them on medical matters. This is really an urgent reform, as the present system, or, rather, anti-system, of a dual medical service is extravagant, and causes a great deal of friction.

Now we come to parts two and three of Queen Elizabeth's division.

I certainly think that now these should not be dealt with by Boards of Guardians. To take the first, that of unemployment. We have just set up at considerable expense Labour Exchanges, and a Minister of Labour. Surely these are the proper people to deal with men or women who cannot find work. They are in a position to know where a man had better move to to obtain employment in his own trade. If there is depression in the labour market, and it is necessary to start relief works, they will be much more likely to be well done by a Central Ministry, able to employ really capable experts, than by small local bodies like Boards of Guardians.

A good deal of elaboration of the present machinery would have to take place before it can deal adequately with all difficulties, but the foundations have been laid, and we hope that the building will soon be erected.

The third duty, the suppression of vagrancy, is not attempted by Guardians except in a very few instances. In this matter I think we cannot do better than take the advice of the Minority Report and remove the casual ward to the police-station. A large number of petty lawbreakers are among tramps, and it would be far better that they should be under the eye of the police. They are not local people; the Guardians are not the right body to deal with them, as they know nothing of them, and their presence in the workhouse, with the attendant stone yard, gives a semi-penal character to the institution which is wounding to the self-respect of those whom poverty and sickness have driven to take refuge within its walls.

This, of course, is only a sketch of some of the reforms by which the old institution of the Poor Law might be adapted to modern requirements. It would still deal with destitute people where the Labour Ministry had failed to relieve them. It would still be available to use for new duties, once the doctrine that it conveyed some mysterious "taint of pauperism" had been relegated to the past. I had almost forgotten the most necessary reform of all. That word pauper must be excised.

POLICIES FOR BUSINESS WOMEN. British Equitable Assn. Co., 1-3, Queen St. Place, E.C.

With Reference to Teachers.

There have been three contributions in recent numbers of The Common Cause on the subject of the conditions of life of teachers, one, on December 14th, signed "Carol Ring," one "Happy High School Mistress," and a third "An Elementary School Teacher." The central point is the question of the personal happiness or unhappiness of the teacher, and as several aspects of the matter have been touched upon, and as many of these concern also women of other occupations, perhaps some further discussion may be allowed.

"Carol Ring" considers that teachers become dissatisfied and bitter owing, she thinks, to their struggle to live on small means and to their social ostracism. Your second correspondent writes that "the enthusiastic teacher cares little about high remuneration"; and as for social life, she tells us that "when a young mistress of a large form" she "constantly received invitations to evening parties, garden parties, excursions, and the like." (In her next paragraph she adds that a teacher's time, "both in and out of school, is so filled with work that there is little left for lonely or dreary feelings," so that one might pertinently ask where the time came from for the giddy round she describes.) "Elementary School-Teacher" speaks of "the crowded classroom," with fifty, sixty, or more, of more or less dirty, badly-clad, sometimes hungry, children," and her advice to those who are thinking of entering the profession is—"Don't."

As to social life, my own experience has shown me the truth of what "Elementary School-Teacher" says—that the receiving of invitations from the parents of one's pupils depends entirely on their social status; in elementary and secondary schools such invitations are rare. I do not think, however, that the solitariness of many teachers' lives is due to this; I think it is a natural result of the over-exhausting conditions under which they work. If you are required, day after day, and year after year, to spend too long a time with too many of your fellow-creatures, when the last of these has gone and your work is over you feel you want nothing so much as to be let alone. Probably all people whose work brings them in touch with large numbers of their fellows feel this to some extent. I remember once saying to a companion that the ideal holiday-place for people like herself and me was Robinson Crusoe's uninhabited island. "Yes," she said, "and let us each keep to our own end." It may interest Common Cause readers to know that she was a Suffrage organiser. Those who neither teach nor organise may catch a glimpse of this peculiar kind of fatigue if they have ever spent a month in the house of an over-zealous hostess who has "entertained" them vigorously for every moment of their time.

The teacher's incessant demand for smaller classes, if granted, would lessen this evil of fatigue, as so many others. It would also, by leaving her a little energy for interest in humanity outside her pupils, allow her to take a greater share in the work of her town, and so become known to her fellow-citizens, among whom she might, in the natural course of things, make genuine friends, for, with all thanks to the sympathy of "Carol Ring," there is an eleemosynary tinge about the social life she asks for us which would in some cases make real friendship difficult. I have known many instances of comradeship result from meeting on committees, in work of many kinds, or from common interest in games, or music, or what not, but few from a deliberate resolve to "invite one or two of the teachers." Moreover, some teachers, whose tired selves have the feelings one might reasonably attribute to a squeezed orange or a pricked balloon, appear to "rest" only in a different form of work, when any purely social function would seem a thing to dread. I should add, however, that meetings between teachers and the parents of their pupils are always in a different category, and increasingly valued by teachers as an essential condition of good work.

The question of rest for teachers brings one to another point touched upon by all your correspondents—the question of the teacher's rooms. All creatures, from the furry world upwards, rest most comfortably in surroundings of their own choice. It seems to me essential that the salary should be large enough to allow a woman teacher a home of her own: and furnished lodgings are not a home. The teacher wants to be able on occasion to invite her friends and her pupils, and landladies usually object to many visitors; she wants also to have about her her own belongings. Frankly, I cannot understand how "Happy High-School Mistress" can talk about "developing one's individuality" in furnished rooms, which are all most teachers can afford. Like most "room-dwellers," I have had kindnesses shown me by landladies of which I have the warmest of memories, but there is no denying that in the ordinary provincial town the women who "let lodgings" undertake this work only when they have come down in the world and are compelled to do so; they feel a queer sense of degradation in so doing which they would not feel if they were earning their money in almost any other way that can be named. They consequently feel a sort of resentment against their new intruders, and against alterations made in the rooms which both parties to the contract now consider their own. Their wish not to lose caste may express itself in many ways, ranging from too-frequent conversations to a broken bell. There is something very human and very pathetic about this, as George Eliot has shown most delicately in the scene where Mrs. Tulliver speaks of the sale of her household goods—but it is not comfortable to live with.

One of the greatest needs at the present time is some form of hostel, or flats with dining-rooms adjoining, suitable for women workers who can pay, say, from ten shillings to thirty shillings a week in rent. In many towns small houses or flats within this rental are to be had, but they are usually situated in very poor neighbourhoods, or at a great distance from centres of work. Even when these are available, the woman who goes out during the day is faced with the difficulty of obtaining domestic help. It is a strange thing that, while women are undertaking capably so many new kinds of work, it is the primeval service of the home which is most defectively organised.

The salaries of women teachers do not, however, as yet run to houses, and "Happy High-School Mistress" says that "the enthusiastic teacher cares little about high remuneration." This is to some extent still true, but I think Suffragists will agree that it is due not to her enthusiasm, but to her ignorance of social values, her disregard of the indirect effect upon other branches of women's work of the salary-scales of teachers, and her ignorance of the conditions really necessary for doing her own work well.

In the case of women teachers, their frequent reluctance to consider the salary question seems to me to be due to one or other of two causes. The one is a survival of the old idea that there is something "unladylike" in working for money. After all, it is a teacher whom Dickens depicts as too delicate to accept a "salary" for her work; it had to be an "annual compliment." The second cause is a vague feeling that, on taking up teaching as a profession, a woman should renounce all wish to share in the life of this world, and should work in the spirit of a nun. This feeling results not only in a reluctance to ask for money, but is one cause of the steady discouragement by some headmistresses of all "outside" activities on the part of their staff, whether in social amusements or in any of the works of citizenship. I cannot resist giving as an illustration of the lengths to which this feeling may be carried the case of a secondary school in a country town, governed, it is true, by a special and semi-private board, the teachers of which, it is said, are required to live in a hostel where, until recently, they were allowed no visitors of either sex, nor are they permitted to be out after seven o'clock, or to make excursions beyond a given radius from the town. The question whether children are better in the hands of a recluse or of an active citizen is one which readers will settle for themselves.

The deepest reason for the existing discontent among teachers is the deplorable conditions under which the majority must try to work. We can see this from the letters of two Common Cause correspondents. The "large form" of "High-School Mistress" means, at most, thirty children—well-fed, clean, cared-for, educated by living in a helpful environment. Their teacher assures us she is happy. "Elementary School-Teacher," on the contrary, knows far better than anyone else that her work is vain, for no one can educate at one time sixty children, dirty because a so-called "practical" nation which boasts of its cleanliness refuses to pay for baths and nurses; and hungry because neither will it feed their bodies, without which it cannot feed their minds. And "Elementary School-Teacher" is discontented, as everyone would be whose task was to bring water in a sieve. In other branches of work, such discontent, with the resultant shortage of workers, would lead to improvement of conditions. It is not so yet in the teaching world, for the question, "Where are the keen young students from the training-colleges?" is being answered with the irrelevancy of the old French grammar-books: "I have not seen them, but here are the daughters of the caretaker and the old village dressmaker." For after all, we are by no means a practical race.

Margaret Weddell.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: MRS. HENRY FAWCETT, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
MISS VIOLET EUSTACE.
MRS. OLIVER STRACHEY (Parliamentary).
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Executive Committee in House of Lords.

A unique event in the history of the Executive Committee occurred on Thursday afternoon last, when, through the kindness of one of our friends in the House, the members of the Committee were invited to hold their meeting in one of the committee-rooms of the House of Lords. In addition to the thrilling experience of being permitted to sit in the seats of the mighty, the Executive Committee had the advantage of receiving constant bulletins from Mrs. Oliver Strachey regarding the progress of the debate, and of being present in the lobby when the momentous decision was announced. Mrs. Fawcett was present during the whole debate, and received numerous congratulations on the result. Letters and telegrams of congratulation have been received in great numbers at the office, and many newspapers have published appreciative interviews with Mrs. Fawcett.

Thanks to Miss Deneke.

Miss Deneke has returned to Oxford, and our heartiest thanks are due to her for the very valuable assistance she has rendered as Acting Secretary during the interim between the resignation of Miss Stopford and the arrival of Miss Davidson, who has now taken up her duties.

Literature Department.

Copies of the Hansards containing the debates on Women's Suffrage clauses in the House of Lords may be obtained (Price 3d. each, postage 1d.). Please state when ordering whether Tuesday's, Wednesday's, or Thursday's debates are required.

Would Miss Batterson, who ordered and paid for a copy of the Women Citizens' Diary at the Annual Council of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland please send her address to the Literature Dept. The Diary has been twice sent to 2, Mintoney Gardens, Edinburgh, and has, in each case, been returned.

The 1917 Franchise Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged since November 1st, 1917 ...	984	8	6
Miss Juliet Reckitt ...	10	10	0
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Bedford W.S.S. ...	1	1	0
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Mrs. Waterhouse ...	25	0	0
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Mrs. Preston ...	2	2	0
Birmingham W.S.S. ...	6	17	4
Mrs. Marriage ...	1	1	0
Mr. J. Smallwood ...		10	0
Chester W.S.S. ...	1	1	0
Miss Janet H. Brooke ...		10	0
Brighton and Hove W.S.S., towards Organisers' Expenses	9	17	0
The Misses M. C. and L. Sharpe	1	0	0
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Miss Nancy Fleming ...		10	0
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Mrs. William Allen ...	1	0	0
Mrs. Limond ...	1	1	0
Mrs. Marriage ...	1	1	0
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Mrs. Charles T. Mitchell ...	1	0	0
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Mrs. Helen B. Taylor ...	1	1	0
The Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves		5	0
Mrs. Pennington ...	1	1	0
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Braintree W.S.S. ...		15	0
Newnham College W.S.S. ...	1	15	9
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Correspondence.

THE TEACHER.

MADAM,—It has been refreshing to read the cheery letters of "A Happy High-School Mistress." I knew, of course, that to the general statements in my paper there are many exceptions, for instance, such statements would not apply to any teacher not entirely dependent on her own earnings for her present and future needs, and so on; but overlooking the fact that, in addition to their own requirements, many women teachers have others dependent or partially dependent on them, I do not think I am unduly "pessimistic."

Let "A Happy High-School Mistress" consider a big town like Birmingham. We have more than three thousand women teachers in our elementary schools. It is, of course, impossible for anything like that number to find pleasant homes in hostels for educated women; a certain number live at home, of course, but very many live alone in lodgings, the comfort of which depends mainly on the amount they can afford to pay for them.

Speaking very roughly, the average salary, under the new scale, of a woman teacher, is about £120 to £130 a year. At the present high cost of living, (and before the war salaries were much less) that is only worth somewhere about £80, and some estimates would make it even less than that. It must be remembered that for a girl entirely self-dependent, and not subsidised by some male relation, this has to provide everything—lodgings, food, recreation, emergencies, holidays, laundry, books, and, finally, out of it she must put by enough to provide for sickness or old age. She will, if she is an elementary school teacher, have a pension when she is sixty-five, of about £30 a year only, and of course she must add to it, or face grinding poverty for the declining years of her life.

Now, I think it is true that "an enthusiastic teacher cares little for high remuneration," (though I am not so sure about men teachers) but she does care immensely that she should be able to give of her best to her work, and to that end, she desires sufficient to enable her to continue her education in any way that specially attracts her, to travel, to maintain a good standard of health, and have proper and restful holdiays; and she ardently longs for the opportunity of enlarging her outlook by social intercourse, and meeting people of wider experience and greater knowledge than herself. And it is a pathetic fact, but true, that even in those cases where kindly invitations are offered, they are often refused for lack of suitable clothes and other accessories.

I thank your correspondent for her charming suggestion that I have a jubilant name, I think it is a delightful idea; but it is perhaps just because I do so keenly appreciate the joy and the freedom of life, and the glory of unharassed work, that I long for women to be enabled to give of their best, as teachers undoubtedly do, freed from acute personal anxieties, and the haunting dread of a poverty-stricken old age.

CAROL RING.

THE SHORTAGE OF MILK.

MADAM,—As a practical farmer may I be allowed to point out the fallacy of H. J. Baylis's arguments as to the cause of the shortage and high price of milk. No farmer would sell a good milking cow for slaughter, simply because it would not pay him to do so. The price of a good cow in full milk at the present time ranges from £40 to £70, which is considerably more than she would fetch for killing, even when fat, after many months' expensive feeding. If no meat were eaten bull calves and inferior milkers would be valueless, and there would be less inducement for farmers to keep dairy herds, and milk would be shorter than ever. Do the humanitarians, who object to the slaughter of animals for food, but who wish to keep cows for milk and sheep for wool, ever realise the fact that as many male animals are born as female? What do they propose to do with the bull calves and ram lambs? Are they to be knocked on the head at birth, or is the country to be overrun with hordes of bulls and rams of no possible use to anyone?

We all deplore the present shortage of milk, but the cause of this shortage is the extremely high price of all feeding stuffs. Cakes and meal are 50 to 60 per cent. dearer than before the war, and are sometimes impossible to procure at any price. Shortage of labour and difficulties in distribution have also increased the troubles of the milk producer, and led to the reduction of many herds.

Farmers are working under most uncertain and trying conditions; they have been more hampered by regulations and restrictions than any other class, and have to be contented with very small returns in proportion to the labour and energy expended and the amount of capital involved in their business. In spite of this they are, as a whole, striving loyally to help their country by producing the largest possible amount of food and by carrying out the suggestions of the Food Controller and the Board of Agriculture to the best of their ability. They do, however, strongly resent the ignorant criticism of persons who know nothing of agricultural conditions, and also the unwarranted implication that they are profiteering, because they are selling their produce at high prices, forgetting that their expenses have increased in the same proportion.

A WOMAN FARMER.

THE STATE ENDOWMENT OF MOTHERHOOD.

MADAM,—In the demand now being made for the State Endowment of Motherhood, one seems again to detect the age-long error of the plea for privilege in lieu of the demand for equal rights.

Mr. Cecil Chapman, in an address on the "Position of Women under the Laws of England," said that with the granting of the Parliamentary Franchise to women, "there should be nothing to hinder women from entering any and every sphere of activity for which they had aptitude." He advocated the alteration of the laws of inheritance, the testamentary laws, the marriage and divorce laws, so as to put men and women on an equal footing in all cases.

I have long held that with equal laws of inheritance among all children, with rational testamentary laws that shall have no taint of masculine preference about them, with equality of opportunity in all fields of industrial, commercial, professional, and other activities, and last, but not least of all, the teaching to all adult women of the hygienic methods of preventing conception, advocated by your correspondent, Janet Chance, and of which well-to-do women now so largely avail themselves, there will be no need for the endowment of motherhood with its tendency toward levelling downward, instead of upward.

We should then cease to stand idly by while the poor re-create and perpetuate poverty with all its evils of deterioration, and demoralisation, its creation of slums, its sapping of independence, its deadening influences, and its perpetuation of the diseased and the unfit. If our race is to hold its own in the struggle of the nations, it must reproduce from the most efficient, not from the least efficient of its members, and only in moderation even from them, so that infantile mortality may sink to a minimum.

It is easy to convert efficiency into inefficiency by continuous reckless breeding; but that is what so many of our well-intentioned but ill-informed health-workers seem resolved upon doing.

An average of three children to a family from our skilled artisan, commercial and professional classes, would provide quite a sufficient, as well as an efficient succession.

Neither idlers nor drudges afford the best material for parentage, and it is the best that we want. It is to be hoped, therefore, that women will prefer to concentrate upon obtaining equality of legal rights, instead of barterifig their birth-right for the "mess of pottage" of maternal endowment.

(DR.) ALICE DRYSDALE VICKERY,
President of the Malthusian League.

THE ENDOWMENT OF MOTHERHOOD.

MADAM,—In your issue of December 14th, M. O'M writes: "Shall the high gift of the power of a man to transmit life, and so stand vicegerent of his maker, be debased to mere satisfaction of sensual appetite?" As the word "man" is ambiguous, this might be construed to mean that the male parent is the author of life, and as such a "vicegerent" of God. No single ignorance of the past has done more to degrade the moral standard than this one; for it has meant not only the subordination of mother activities—which best represent God, or Nature in its moral mood—but has encouraged that real enemy of "the high gift of the power" to transmit life which is to be found not in the regulation of childbirth, but in the ubiquitous house of ill fame. More than 50 years ago, that great biologist and Catholic prelate, Mendel, refuted the ancient notion that one parent brings the life of which the other parent is the "nurse," and it is now time that this legacy of ignorance should be finally "scotched." Your correspondent admits that poverty and ill-health may cause married couples to call a halt. But if it is so clear that He who sends the mouths does not always send the bread to fill them, is it possible that no prudential considerations of a still higher moral and physical order should act as deterrents with parents?

M. A. R. TUKER.

[We much regret that owing to an accident in printing the signature M. O'M. was left out after the last letter, in our last week's issue, on "Facing Alternatives."]

DAY CONTINUATION CLASSES.

There is to-day much more widespread realisation in this country of the need of education, than there has ever been before. It has been brought home to us that many of our natural deficiencies are due to lack of training, and people who have hitherto been indifferent, are now determined to get a better education for their children than they have been able to do in the past. Never have our secondary schools been so full, and it is evident that workers who are now getting higher wages, have seized the opportunity to secure educational advantages for their boys and girls. There is also a growing demand for technical training, and for continuation classes of different types that can be attended by boys and girls who are already at work, and though Mr. Fisher's scheme has been welcomed by many people as an instalment, there is keen disappointment in some quarters that it has not gone much further.

What of the future of the thousands of boys and girls now employed on war work? Many will be thrown out of employment, and it is most urgent that they should be fitted now to adapt themselves to new conditions. In neglecting the education of these adolescents—their development in high character and sound citizenship—we are not only mortgaging their future, but we are laying up for the country the most serious problems of industrial upheaval and unrest.

With a view to securing immediate opportunities for boys and girls to continue their education after starting work, the Committee of "Education as National Service" is carrying on a vigorous propaganda. One branch of its work is to train men and women from the universities as teachers for day continuation schools, and for the classes held in boys' and girls' clubs, and adult organisations. At the present time so many fields of work are open to university women that they are less inclined to take up teaching, while few men are available, but it is hoped that some educated men discharged from the Army will help to meet the shortage of teachers, and that sufficient women will come forward once the need is known.

For purposes of training, the Committee has rented Mansfield House Residence for students of social and educational problems, and will shortly open a Day Continuation School in Canning Town. It will have the advantage of the co-operation of the workers of Mansfield House Settlement.

The scheme for which it is hoped to find assistance from those who sympathise, is shortly this: To get some of the employers in the neighbourhood of Canning Town to allow certain of their factory girls and boys to come to Mansfield House Residence for one period, morning or afternoon during the week out of work hours. Small classes will be held in such subjects as Regional Survey, Citizenship, History and Literature, Science, Home Craft and personal Hygiene—encouraging individual thought by discussion and debate.

Though one period a week seems very little from the educational point of view, yet if real links can be made with the life of the student, the period will be but the nucleus of the intellectual life of the week, and so of real value; and if such a student can continue a few years, for even one period a week, it is obvious that much could be gained in the way of intellectual interest. As the number of students increases, classes will be opened in the day-time in Fairbairn Hall.

Offers of assistance for the scheme are invited by the Hon. Dean, Mrs. Mackenzie, M.A., late Professor of Education (Cardiff), and by the Tutor, Miss Margaret Frodsham, B.Sc., at the Lecture Centre, 11, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

SAVING THE CHILDREN

WINTER HARDSHIPS
AMONG ARMENIAN REFUGEES

Clothing, Shelter, and Medical Aid urgently wanted.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S APPEAL.

"Reports indicate that of Orphans alone (Armenian and Syrian) there are more than 400,000 besides women and other dependent children, reaching a total of more than 2,000,000 DESTITUTE SURVIVORS. The situation is so distressing as to make a special appeal to the sympathies of all."—October 29th, 1917.

TELEGRAM FROM DR. KENNEDY—

"In co-operation with American Committee, arrangements completed for Hospital 25 beds, attend daily 50 Out-patients. MANY OTHERS WHOM WE CANNOT ARRANGE FOR at present, but hope to do so later. Great need of reliable medicines and dressings. SUPPLYING DAILY MILK TO OVER THREE HUNDRED WEAK BABIES."—*November 8th*, 1917.

WINTER FOOD PRICES RISING—FEAR OF FAMINE.

"Food is becoming more and more scarce and higher in price, and at present the supplies for the Central Committee's Stores have entirely failed, and its Refugees are forced to buy in the open market at ruinous prices. The Central Committee hope to obtain further supplies, but that they will do so is by no means certain, and if they are unsuccessful, A CONDITION APPROACHING FAMINE will develop among the Refugees."—Mr. A. BACKHOUSE, *October 28th*, 1917.

WAGES THE BEST FORM OF RELIEF.

The Agents of the Armenian Refugees' (Lord Mayor's) Fund have set themselves, while relieving immediate destitution, to provide work for the Refugees. In and around Igdir the Fund has established a COTTON SPINNING INDUSTRY, employing 500 women.

TRAVEL LONG DISTANCES FOR 8d. A DAY.

Between £2,000 and £3,000 have been paid out in wages for work done. The wages only amount to 8d. per day, but Mr. Backhouse reports: "These rates of payment, low as they may seem, are considerably higher than those usually paid in the district. And the demand for work from fresh applicants still continues. Many of the WOMEN COME FROM LONG DISTANCES, some from villages five and six hours' distant."

FAMILIES WITHOUT A ROOF TO SHELTER THEM

And so the spirit and industry of this persecuted people have not been crushed, though for two terrible years they have been homeless and neglected. In some cases whole families, mostly women and little children, camp out in the corners of farmyards, for the want of better places; OFTEN THERE IS NOTHING TO SHELTER them but the overhanging side of a friendly hayrick.

IF A CHILD WERE DYING ON YOUR DOORSTEP?

The hand of Winter is closing its grip around these broken and destitute remnants, and an increasing number must die every day unless we help, and help quickly. We have it IN OUR POWER TO SAVE LIFE as truly as if a child were dying on our own doorsteps! Authorities agree that the cost of sustaining life averages about £1 per month per person. Will you sustain one life or ten lives or a hundred lives for one month?

£1? or £10? or £100?
ARMENIAN REFUGEES (LORD MAYOR'S) FUND

Chairman: Aneurin Williams, Esq, M.P. **Hon. Treasurer: Lt.-Col. Gregory**
Hon. Sec: The Rev. Harold Buxton **Secretary: The Rev. C. C. T. Colson**

96, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1.

Items of Interest.

AUSTRALIA AND ITS OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN.

Speaking on the above subject at the International Women's Franchise Club, on Saturday afternoon, Staff-Sergeant John Simpson drew a very glowing picture of the wonderful opportunities which await the resourceful woman in Australia. Sergeant Simpson pointed out, however, that it was useless for women to go to the cities and expect to earn much larger salaries than here; they would be no better off in Sydney than in London. To succeed they must be pioneers, and the right type of woman, not afraid to turn her hand to anything, who had gained experience here in some form of agricultural work, could not fail to make a success in the Bush. Fruit farming offered a particularly attractive field for women with a little capital. A small fruit farm could be started with 10 acres of land, and suitable land could be purchased at from £7 to £12 an acre, according to the amount of uncleared timber; the cost of clearing would be from £5 to £7 per acre, so that reckoning £20 per acre the holding would cost you £200. One had to remember, however, that a period of five years must elapse before a return sufficient to keep one could be expected. A suggestion made was that three women should start with a capital of £600 and take up 30 acres of ground. They should be prepared to do the preliminary work themselves and arrange to keep themselves with some other work. One of the three could be left to manage the farm until maturity. It was also pointed out that living was very low.

For the woman without capital Sergeant Simpson maintained that no one who was willing to work need fear to starve in Australia. A woman with her passage money and £20 in her pocket, to keep her while she looked round, need have no fear. She must be prepared to turn her hand to anything whilst looking for just "her job."

Another point made by the speaker was that it was an Imperial duty for women to go to Australia. That vast country with its tiny population was in the greatest need of the women of this country; the possibilities of food production there were enormous, and in the interests of the Empire no better piece of work could be done.

CO-ORDINATED RECRUITING.

In *The Daily Mail* of January 9th appeared the outline of a scheme which, if and when acted upon, should have the effect of straightening the tangle in which the recruiting of women for war-work has become involved. It provides for a joint recruiting appeal, medical examination, and selection board for the W.A.A.C., W.R.N.S., Army Forage Department, Women's Land Army, Home-grown Timber Department, and V.A.D. This would involve uniformity as far as possible in the pay and allowances of all these services. A recruit would be asked to name her first and second choice of employment, and if rejected for one class of work, would not be debarred from another for which she might be better suited.

The principle of this scheme is excellent. Only one drawback occurs to one at first sight. One can imagine a woman very keen on a particular form of work hesitating about signing this composite application form for fear she should find herself pitch-forked into another for which she had an aversion. When details come to be published, however, it will probably be found that safeguards are provided for freedom of choice, and, in any case, women would be no worse off than the men conscripted for the Army.

The announcement of Lady Mackworth's appointment to the post of Chief Controller of Women's Recruiting, made by Sir Auckland Geddes in the House of Commons on Monday has an obvious connection with this scheme.

THE SISTER SERVICES.

A new branch of the "Waacs" has come into existence. Henceforward the service will be in two divisions—mobile and immobile. It has been found that the rule by which all women enlisted had to be prepared to serve wherever needed kept out a number of capable women whose circumstances prevented them from leaving their homes. These may, in future, enlist on the understanding that they will not be transferred to other districts. Probably their work will resemble that of members of local V.A.D.s, who work at hospitals in their neighbourhood and return to their homes at night, except that the work of the W.A.A.C. members will be in neighbouring camps or barracks.

Meanwhile, the "Wrens" are going ahead. Women whose qualifications fit them to become officers should apply to the Professional Women's Register, Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway. Dame Catherine Furse has stated that there are many capable women in minor posts, doing work of no special importance, who should be available for this purpose. Much of this work will be at isolated stations and big naval bases, and very reliable women are needed also in the rank-and-file of the service.

WOMEN FOR THE WOODS.

The Women's Forestry Corps wants more workers for felling light timber, cross-cutting pit-props, and clearing. The pay is 20s. per week, or the local rate, whichever is higher. For measuring, which is more highly-skilled work, the rate is 45s. weekly. Applications should be made to the Timber Supply Committee, Caxton House, S.W. 1.

The Board of Agriculture also wants women for planting trees.

HOMES FOR MARRIED WOMEN WORKERS.

At Woolwich next month an experiment is to be started that has more than once been advocated in THE COMMON CAUSE for the benefit of professional women. A home is to be opened in which married women munition workers with children can be accommodated, and capable nurses are to be provided to look after the children while their mothers are at work.

THE MILITARY MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY.

The military medal has been awarded to two nursing sisters for "coolness and gallantry displayed in the performance of their duties when a casualty clearing station was heavily shelled." Their names are:—

Miss Mary Gladys Connie Foley, R.R.C., Q.A.I.M.N.S.,
Miss Mabel Jennings, A.R.R.C., T.F.N.S.

MUNITION WORKERS' WAGES.

We understand that the War Cabinet Labour Committee has sanctioned an increase of 3s. 6d. per week pay to women munition workers and 1s. 9d. for girls; the rise to date from the first pay day after December 15th.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS and mention THE COMMON CAUSE when ordering goods.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

HEADQUARTERS: 2, ST. ANDREW'S SQUARE, EDINBURGH.
Founded by the Scottish Federation of the N.U.W.S.S.

The hospital for tubercular Serbs is to be known as the Dr. Elsie Inglis Tuberculosis Hospital for Serbs. An excellent building has been secured at Sallanches, near Aix-les-Bains, and arrangements are being pushed forward as quickly as possible.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, for much new work is being undertaken, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H., Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or the Hon. Mrs B. M. Graves, Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to December 31st, 1917	276,672	7	9
Further donations received to January 10th, 1918:—			
*The Misses Douglas, Cambridge, Mass., U.S.A., per Miss Helen M. K. Wright (Villers-Cotteret)	21	0	0
*Dock Office Staff of the Leith, Hull, and Hamburg Steam Packet Co. Ltd., per James Currie & Co., Managers ...	2	5	0
Mrs. Manners: Sale of Mascots	2	5	0
*Mrs. Jane Graham	2	2	0
Sunday Morning's Collecting Box		17	0
*Anonymous		10	0
Mrs. Stonhouse		5	0
Launcelot W. Andrews, Esq., Chicago, per Miss Kemp, per Professor Dixon	5	0	0
*Miss Elizabeth Rae (monthly donation)		2	6
*Anonymous	25	0	0
*Liverpool W.S.S., per Miss Clara Brunner, Hon. Treas., to continue "Liverpool" bed, Royaumont: Miss Bowring (£5), Mrs. F. W. Rathbone (15s.), Lady Bowring (10s.), Miss Crooke (10s.), Miss E. K. McConnell (10s.), Mrs. Armstrong (5s.), Miss Normington (2s. 6d.)	7	12	6
Messrs. A. R. Brown, McFarlane & Co. Ltd., per James Dick, Esq., Director	5	5	0
*Miss Constance B. Thresher (quarterly donation)	2	10	0
*John S Gibb, Esq.	2	0	0
*Per Mrs. Mather, for "Elsie Inglis Memorial Hospital for Tubercular Serbs"		15	0
*Mrs. J. H. Beveridge (Serbia and France)	2	0	0
Mrs. C. W. Allan	2	0	0
*Mrs. Stenhouse, to continue "Stenhouse" bed, American Unit, for one year	50	0	0
*Sale of Chinese Stamps, per Mrs. Laurie: Miss Mary E. Dalby (2 pkts.) (10s.), Miss H. Arnott Collington (1 pkt.) (5s.), Miss Elsie C. Gayner (1 pkt.) (5s.), Mrs. Handley Spicer (4 pkts.) (£1), Mrs. J. Hopkins (1 pkt.) (5s.), Mrs. Richard Cadbury (1 pkt.) (5s.)	2	10	0
Readers of the *Glasgow Evening News*, per J. Murray Smith, Esq., Editor, per John S. Samuel, Esq.	30	0	0
Mrs. A. Maitland, for "Heriot Row" bed	5	0	0
*Per Miss Jamieson, Organiser S.W.H., Edinburgh: Mrs. Jamieson (£1), Mrs. Henry Watson (£1)	2	0	0
A Helper		1	0
Per Mrs. Abbott, Brisbane, per the Queensland National Bank Ltd.	6,800	0	0
	£283,643	7	9

* Denotes further donations.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Name of Bed.	*Donor.*
"Stenhouse" (American Unit, further 1 year)	Mrs. Stenhouse, 13, Belgrave Crescent, Edinburgh.
"Port-Glasgow Public Schools" (Corsica, 1 year)	See Miss Etta Shankland's list in THE COMMON CAUSE.
"Glen Shipbuilding Yard" (New Hospital, Greenock Ward, 1 year)	See Miss Etta Shankland's list. (Various donations.)

MAGNIFICENT GIFT FROM QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA.

The Headquarters' Committee of the S.W.H. have been much gratified in getting so tangible a proof of the esteem with which the work of the Scottish Women's Hospitals is considered in Australia by the receipt this week of the handsome donation of £6,800—and Mrs. Abbott, who has been working out there on their behalf for the last few months, must have great satisfaction and pleasure in having her efforts so warmly supported.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST.

Details of amount of £135 9s. 11d. collected by Miss Etta Shankland, Organiser, S.W.H., Greenock, entered in last week's list of THE COMMON CAUSE.

	£	s.	d.
*Greenock Local Com., S.W.H., per Miss Etta Shankland, Organiser: 37th to 41st Penny Weekly Collection in Greenock, for Motor Ambulance (Serbians) (£40 3s. 3d.); *Pupils, Glebe School, Greenock, for upkeep of School bed, Corsica, per Robt. Thexton, Esq., Headmaster (£2); *Teachers and Pupils of Greenock School for the Deaf, for upkeep of School bed, Corsica, per Miss Whyte, Headmistress (£1 .0s.); *Teachers and Pupils, Ladyburn School, Greenock, per Miss Hamilton, for upkeep of School bed, Corsica (£1); *Collected by George and Mary Riddell (Serbians) (10s.)	45	3	3
*Per Miss Etta Shankland, Organiser S.W.H.: Collected by the Public Schools, Port-Glasgow, after meetings addressed by Miss Etta Shankland, for a "Port-Glasgow Public Schools" bed, Corsica: *Staff and Pupils, Highholm Higher Grade Public School, per James Dick, Esq., Headmaster (£22 13s. 6d.); *Staff and Pupils, Clune Park Public School, per M. A. R. Munro, Esq., Headmaster (£15 2s.); *Staff and Pupils, Jean Street School, per David Dryburgh, Esq., Headmaster (£13 10s.); *Staff and Pupils, Chapelton Public School, per Chas. L. Brodie, Esq., Headmaster—£16 1s. 2d., already acknowledged £2 17s. 6d.—(£13 3s. 8d.); Total received for bed to date, £67 6s. 8d., already acknowledged £2 17s. 6d.	64	9	2
*Workers Messrs. Wm. Fulton & Sons, per James Guy, Esq. (5th don.) (£10); *Staff and Workers Messrs. Wm. Hamilton & Co., 27th to 30th dons. for upkeep of "Glen Shipbuilding Yard" bed, Greenock Ward, New Hospital (£5 13s. 2d.); *Victoria Works War Charities Fund, No. 2 Shift, per W. Peden, Esq. (£5); *Messrs. Hally & Co., Sale of Waste-paper Tubes, for upkeep of bed (£3 4s. 4d.); *Seedhill Finishing Co. Ltd. (11th and 12th dons.), per Robt. Benson, Esq. (Serbians) (£1); *Etta-ma-Scott (Serbians) (£1)	25	17	6
	£135	9	11

LIST OF NAMED BEDS IN VILLERS-COTTERET, RAISED IN RESPONSE TO MISS KATHLEEN BURKE'S APPEAL IN AMERICA, ON BEHALF OF THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S WORK IN FRANCE.

Horace E. Andrews, New York.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bacon, New York.
Alexander Baillie, Seattle, Washington.
Bank of California, San Francisco: John Anderson and C. K. McIntosh.
Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Barron, Boston, Mass.
William B. Bourne, San Francisco.
Bondsmen Club, Chicago, Illinois.
W. J. Burns, Portland, Oregon.
C. A. Coffin, New York.
William H. Crocker, San Francisco.
Frank J. Dupignac, El Mirasol, Santa Barbara, Calif.
Dr. and Mary G. Finney, Baltimore.
Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Forgan, Chicago, Ill.
Lee K. Frankel, New York City.
Anton G. Hodenpyl, Locust Valley, L.I.
Mr. and Mrs. Insul, Chicago.
Miss Gwenthalyn Jones, Lake Forest, Ill.
Thomas Jones, Lake Forest, Ill.
George Owen Knapp, Montecito, Calif.
Guy Lowell, Boston, Mass.
Mr. and Mrs. John Lawson, San Francisco, Calif.
President and Mrs. Lowell, Havard University.
Mr. and Mrs. Dugall Hawkes, New York.
Mrs. Jessie L. Metcalf, Providence, R.I.
Mrs. Louis F. Monteagle, San Francisco, Calif.
F. F. Peabody, Santa Barbara, Calif.
Mrs. Roy Pike, San Francisco, Calif.
Mrs. Horace Pillsbury, San Francisco, Calif.
Mrs. James Proctor, Hamilton, Mass.
Mrs. H. R. Rood, Seattle, Washington.
Mrs. Arthur Ryerson, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. Martin A. Ryerson, Chicago, Ill.
Robert A. Shaw, New York.
Mrs. E. F. Shepard, New York.
Mrs. Robert Stuart, Chicago, Ill.
Elihu Thomson, Swampscot, Mass.
Mrs. G. W. Wickersham, Cedar Hurst, Long Island.
Mrs. Robert D. Evans, Beverley Farms, Mass. (Two places in the "Crane Ward.")
Mr. and Mrs. Richard T. Crane, Chicago, Ill. (Ten places in the "Crane Ward.")
Miss Isabel Peters, Oyster Bay, L.I.
Mrs. T. N. Rhinelander, Lawrence, L.I.
Mrs. T. D. Murphy, Burlingame, San Francisco.
Mrs. Paul Cravath, Locust Valley, L.I.
Frederick Strauss, N.Y.C.
Harriet Anne Buel.
Mrs. Daniel Murphy, Las Angeles, Calif.
Mrs. Geo. K. Davis and Mr. Davis, Santa Barbara, Calif.
Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Hine, Glen Cove, L.I.
Mrs. George Pope, San Francisco, Calif.
Charles Halliwell Duell.
Holland Sackett Duell.
Halliwell Ladyard Duell.
Helen Duell.
Mrs. R. W. Emmons, Boston.
Miss Alice R. Peters, Oyster Bay, L.I.
Mrs. F. B. Pratt, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Mrs. Louis D. Davis, Santa Barbara, Calif.
Mr. J. S. Gibson, Seattle, Washington.
Mrs. Rachel B. Jackson, Boston, Mass.
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Douglas.
Mr. and Mrs. Marion McMillan, N.Y.C.
Mrs. N. R. Peters, Oyster Bay, L.I.
Mrs. Arline Davis, Ireland, Santa Barbara, Calif.
Mrs. Frank B. Keech, N.Y.C.
Miss Alice Davidson.
Mrs. J. B. Morgan.
Theodore Freylinghaysen.
C. G. K. Billings.
Mrs. John S. Kennedy.
Richard Mortimer.
C. A. Severance.
Albert Strauss.
Mr. and Mrs. Percy Jennings.
Mrs. R. J. Thompson.
John B. Dennis.
Miss Emily O. Butler.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED.

The Equipment Committee have completely exhausted their stock of the following articles: Woollen and flannelette pyjamas and day shirts; woollen vests and pants; socks and bed-socks. Several hundred are required for immediate dispatch to the American Unit in Macedonia. Large or small donations of those goods forwarded to the Equipment Secretary, Scottish Women's Hospitals, 2, St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, will be gratefully acknowledged.

THE DUTY OF SAVING.

Under the title A WOMAN'S PLEA, a leaflet written by Mrs. Alec Tweedie is being reprinted by the Food Controller. Mrs. Tweedie appeals to every household to do its bit in saving—in food, clothes, drink, tobacco, cash, and even bits of paper and string. She suggests ways of using the present scale of voluntary rations to the best advantage, and urges other methods of economising, such as going early to bed to save light and fires, and the use of a hay-box cooker to save fuel.

To save matches Mrs. Tweedie suggests the following device: Any small tin tobacco or lozenge box can be filled with cotton wool on which kerosine is poured. In the top of this tight-fitting box make a hole just big enough for a piece of ordinary string to come through, to form a wick, while several pieces of string remain imbedded in the wool. One match to light this in the morning will enable endless lights to be taken from it by means of paper spills.

Copies of the leaflet can be obtained, on application by letter only, from Mrs. Alec Tweedie, 32, Whitehall Court, S.W. 1.

WOMEN'S DAY.

The Y.W.C.A. is organising a great appeal for funds to provide and support the huts, clubs, and canteens so urgently needed by the W.A.A.C. and women workers in munition areas. Friday, March 22nd, has been fixed as "Women's Day" for greater London, and later dates will be fixed for other parts of the country.

A LANDWORKER'S LIBRARY.

The Hertfordshire War Agricultural Committee have started a lending library of modern fiction for the use of the 200 land girls scattered throughout the country. This is an excellent move—though it is to be hoped that poetry and books of a more varied nature will be supplied as well as modern fiction, as the tastes of land workers no doubt vary as greatly as those of any other group of men or women. So far very little has been done to provide relaxation of any sort for landworkers, many of whom have left comfortable homes and given up varied interests.

IMPORTANT.

Postal Orders should be crossed, and filled in N.U.W.S.S.

Treasury notes should be treated like coins, and always registered. If any contributions remain more than two days unacknowledged, please write at once to the Secretary, N.U.W.S.S., Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, W.1.

Please address letters containing money either to the Secretary or to Mrs. Auerbach, or Miss Sterling by name, *not* to the Treasurer.

What Some of our Societies are Doing.

North-Western Federation.

A series of meetings to discuss the future of the National Union were held in this federation. Mrs. Thoday was the speaker.

SILVERDALE.—This small society held a meeting at the Vicarage, by kind invitation of Mrs. Sleigh. An interesting discussion followed Mrs. Thoday's address.

CARNFORTH.—This gathering was attended by groups of members who had walked in from different villages three or four miles outside Carnforth, in order to discuss the future possibilities of the vote. During the informal address various points were discussed as they arose. It was unanimously decided that there was great need for an organisation of women after the vote was won. It was agreed that in this district the National Union is best adapted to form such an organisation, and that what is most required is education and construction work to obtain the full influence of women in social reform. The following resolution was passed unanimously: "That, in the opinion of this society, the National Union should resolve itself into an organisation to work for women's full citizenship, and decides (1) to work for the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women on the same terms as men and such other reforms, political, social, and domestic, as will secure for women freedom of opportunity, and will enable them to make their full contribution to the affairs of the community. (2) To study local and national politics, so as to initiate and promote legislation from the point of view of women's interests when necessary.

KESWICK.—A meeting was arranged to hear Mrs. Thoday, and to discuss the various schemes sent from headquarters, which proved very useful. No vote was taken, but the feeling in general was in favour of all activities being concentrated in one society—the National Union—on a broad basis. The delegate from Cockermouth was in agreement with this view. Carlisle unfortunately could not send delegates, owing to the lack of train service. Mrs. Thoday gave a very impartial and clear survey of the merits and differences of the schemes, which had all been circulated and thought over by the committee. There was a good and interested attendance. Tea was served afterwards.

HERNE BAY.—In presenting the annual report the hon. secretary, Mrs. Cowper Field, expressed the hope that before another general meeting was called women would, at least in a measure, be directly represented in Parliament. Miss Mary L. Pendered's removal from the neighbourhood has deprived the society of an energetic and most sympathetic president. Miss Pendered's office has been taken over by Mrs. Ronald McNeill, unanimously elected. The Women's Suffrage War Savings Committee of the society (hon. secretary, Miss Alice Stubbs), formed less than a year ago, numbers nearly 100 members, and has collected in subscriptions over £200.

CHESTER W.S.S.—On Friday, January 11th (the day after the House of Lords' Day), at Haswell's Café, Miss M. V. Taylor, presiding, Miss Parker (Waterloo W.S.S.) gave the members a talk on the Education Bill. Many points in Mr. Fisher's Bill were mentioned, such as nursery schools, proper qualifications for teachers, higher age for children leaving school, limitation of wage-earning by the young, day-time continuation classes, etc.; and it was hoped that these reforms would be shortly introduced into the new Education Bill.

Collection, 16s. 5d., 13 copies of THE COMMON CAUSE sold.

BRISTOL.—On January 9th, 1918, a brilliantly successful matinée was held at the Hippodrome on behalf of the Scottish Women's Hospitals and Serbian Red Cross Funds. Under the leadership of the Hon. Secretary of N.U.W.S.S., Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, a committee, consisting of Suffragists and other ladies, with Mr. H. E. Chattock, late High Sheriff, as Chairman, and Mr. S. Fortescue Harrison, the Manager of the Hippodrome, arranged an excellent programme, the main feature of which was a lecture on Serbia, illustrated with lantern slides by the Hon. Evelina Haverfield. Mrs. Haverfield makes a most eloquent and moving appeal, and any N.U. society that can organise a meeting for her is doing good work.

Other items were songs by the principal artists of the Hippodrome and Prince's Theatre Pantomime, and by Mons. Rosing, the famous Russian singer, also pianoforte solos by the celebrated Russian pianist Cesukoff, and a delightful Children's Ballet, performed by the little pupils of the Misses Parnall.

The Lord Mayor spoke a few words introducing Mrs. Haverfield. The demand for seats was very great, and when all expenses are paid the sale of tickets will realise well over £100, while the collection, which was taken for Mrs. Haverfield's Comforts Fund for Serbian Soldiers and Prisoners, amounted to £55.

The working parties continue as usual.

Forthcoming Meetings (N.U.W.S.S.)

JANUARY 18.

Warrington—Meeting for Members, at Atkinson's Café—Speaker: Mrs. Cooper—Subject: "Future Work of the N.U." 7 p.m.

JANUARY 19.

Birmingham—Priory Rooms—Housing Conference, in conjunction with the Women's Labour League—Speakers: Mrs. Chettle; Mrs. Donaldson. 3 p.m.

JANUARY 21.

Stafford—Annual Meeting—Mrs. Ring.

Stafford—Women's Co-operative Guild—Mrs. Ring.

Winchester—The Guildhall—Speaker: Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon, on "The Training of Young Citizens"—Chair: The Mayor of Winchester. 8 p.m.

JANUARY 22.

Nelson—Conference to discuss the formation of a "Women's Citizen Association" for the new Parliamentary Division, at 59, St. Mary's Street, Nelson—Speaker: Mrs. Thoday. 7.30 p.m.

JANUARY 23.

Birmingham—Brynheulog, Edgbaston—Mothers' Consultation—Mrs. Ring. 3 p.m.

JANUARY 24.

Denmark Hill—The People's Church, Windsor Road, S.E.—Chair: Mr. T. Owen Jacobsen, M.P.—Mrs. Corbett Fisher, M.A., will open a discussion on: (1) Women's New Opportunities; (2) Food Distribution and How to Help. 7 p.m.

JANUARY 25.

Richmond—Annual Meeting—Pagoda Tea Rooms, Hill Rise—Chair: Lady Frances Balfour. 3 p.m.

JANUARY 29.

Accrington—Conference to discuss future work of the Woman Voter, in the Council Chamber, Town Hall—Speaker: Mrs. Thoday. 3 p.m.

LONDON UNITS, S.W.H.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18th—Tiffin Girls' School, Kingston—Speaker: Miss May Curwen. 2.15 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28th—Woodseats Adult School, Sheffield—Speaker: The Hon. Mrs. Haverfield. (Time to be announced later.)

Coming Events.

LECTURES AT THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (CLARE MARKET, W.C.).

An important course of public lectures has been arranged in connection with the Ministry of Food on Problems of Food Control in Time of War. Another course of public lectures has been arranged in furtherance of the aims of the Imperial Studies Committee of the University on The Empire, its Commerce and Commercial Requirements, the subjects dealt with being: Artificial Manures, Fodder, Meat, Fibres, Timber, Wood Pulp, and Paper-making Materials, Leather and Tanning Materials.

A new course of Lectures on Business Organisation is also announced in the Department of Commerce. The lecturer, Mr. Herbert Casson, is a well-known expert in Scientific Management, a subject in which everyone engaged in the organisation of business of any kind is keenly interested at the present time. Mr. Casson, who is a Canadian, has made a very thorough study of both English and American methods and theories of business. His excellence as a lecturer is well known.

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[Continued on page 524

Continued from page 523.

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